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# Eisenhower Carrier Strike Group Returns from Deployment

*By Mass Communication Specialist Seaman (SW) Seth Scarlett and Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class (SW) Carla Morton*

Nearly 6,000 Sailors from ships and aircraft squadrons from the Eisenhower Carrier Strike Group (IKE CSG) returns home today after successfully completing an extended nearly eight month deployment. IKE CSG deployed Oct. 3 in support of Maritime Security Operations in the Fifth Fleet Area of Responsibility and Operations Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Enduring Freedom (OEF).

"I'm extremely proud of our nearly 6,000 men and women of the Eisenhower Carrier Strike Group," said Rear Adm. Allen G. Myers, Commander, Carrier Strike Group 8 (CCSG 8). "We were successful in supporting our coalition and regional allies by strengthening

our collective efforts to keep the seas free, safe and secure for trade and commerce, conducting maritime security operations and flying missions in support of U.S. and multinational ground troops in both OIF and OEF. IKESG's deployment reflected the speed, agility, persistent presence, and joint/combined war fighting capabilities that a Carrier Strike Group provides in support of our National Defense."

Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 7 flew approximately 12,000 sorties and has put in more than 31,400 flight hours since deployment began, providing air support for multinational coalition forces on the ground in support of various operations in the U.S. Naval Forces Central Command Area of Responsibility (AOR).

"We supported joint coalition forces both in Iraq and Afghanistan, not only with kinetic effects, such as precision guided weapons and 20mm cannon fire, but also with essential non-kinetic support through show of force and the work of the EA-6B, helicopter and E-2C squadrons," said Lt. Dale Gregory, CVW-7 Operations

staff officer. "Throughout our deployment, we have been an essential part, whether that be in support of troops on the ground or in our mere presence at sea, in the global war on terror."

The guided-missile cruiser *USS Anzio (CG 68)* supported Maritime Security Operations throughout the Fifth Fleet Area of Responsibility, from the Arabian Gulf to the Arabian Sea. *Anzio* participated in 32 compliant boardings, demonstrating our nation's commitment to maintaining international sea lines of communications open to all mariners, free from the threats of piracy, smugglers, and terrorists. *Anzio's* boarding teams provided both local fishermen and merchants with fuel, food, and medical care to ensure their safety and spread a sense of cooperation to fellow mariners.

While deployed to the Central Command Area of Responsibility working for Combined Task Forces (CTF) 150 and 152, the guided-missile destroyer *USS Ramage (DDG 61)* participated in multiple pulse operations

**Return continued on page 3**

# USS Anzio Rescues Stranded Crew of Four Ukrainian Sailors

*By Ensign Colleen McDonald  
USS Anzio Public Affairs*

The guided-missile cruiser *USS Anzio (CG 68)* responded to a distress call May 20 from *Amerauto*, a 34-foot sailing vessel.

The vessel was slowly sinking and the four crew members were transferred to *Anzio*. *Amerauto* was 425 miles from Bermuda when they put out their distress call and 1,700 miles from their next destination of the Azores.

The vessel and its Ukrainian crew of four had been underway for five days after departing Bermuda on May 15, heading for the Azores.

Initially bridge-to-bridge communications were difficult because the Ukrainian crew spoke little English, but fortunately *Anzio* has three personnel on board who are fluent in Russian.

*Anzio's* Navigator, Lt. j.g. Brian Gordon, Electronics Technician 2nd Class Eric Stoddard, and Gas Turbine Systems Technician (Electrical) 3rd Class Vladimir Moskovkin worked together as a team to communicate with

*Amerauto*. They discovered that the vessel had several problems: it was taking on water, the bilge pump was inoperable because of a casualty to the generator, one crew member was ill, they only had three days of food remaining on board and they had no propane to cook their food.

Moskovkin, born in Ufa, Russia, handled the majority of the bridge-to-bridge communications.

"The crew spoke perfect Russian. It was easy for me to understand," said Moskovkin. "You could hear the desperation in their voices as they kept repeating that their situation was severe. They had no confidence in the hull of the sailboat."

*Anzio* dispatched Gordon and Engineman 1st Class Gregory Fogle via small boat to assess the *Amerauto's* seaworthiness. Upon arriving on board, it was clear that the crew was in distress and the vessel was in very poor condition.

"The vessel was taking on about 12 gallons of water per hour and their generator was shorted out, rendering their bilge pump useless," said Gordon. "The only way they could get the water off



Photo by MCSN Jon Dasbach

*Ticonderoga-class guided missile cruiser USS Anzio (CG 68) conducts a fueling at sea with Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69).*

their boat was by using buckets. They had no power and everything they were using was running on battery power."

The *Amerauto* passengers were taken on board *Anzio* for medical care

and a hot meal. One was treated for dehydration upon arrival, and all are currently doing well. They are remaining on board *Anzio* as the ship heads back

**Anzio continued on page 4**

## Ram On



*AM2 Stanislav Ischuck and AM2 Martin Krenzke repaint an F/A-18C Hornet from the "Rampagers" of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 83 prior to fly off from the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69).*

**Photo Story by MCSN (SW) Shanika Futrell**



# Return

across the AOR. These pulse operations focused on building a comprehensive recognized maritime picture in support of national and coalition tasking in numerous regions, to include the Red Sea, the Arabian Gulf, the Gulf of Oman and the Horn of Africa. Ramage conducted more than 40 approach and assist visits, three boardings, more than 100 maritime awareness calls and 13 coordinated maritime awareness calls.

The guided-missile destroyer *USS Mason (DDG 87)* successfully executed Exercise Neon Falcon, a bilateral exercise between the U.S. and Royal Bahraini navies. The exercise was a vital step toward the Chief of Naval Operation's goal of an international "1,000 ship Navy." Additionally, *Mason*, *USS Whirlwind (PC 11)*, and Bahraini ships RBNS Sabha, RBNS Tawelah, and RBNS Al Fadil participated in extensive inport and at sea exercises designed to flex the war fighting capabilities of both navies.

A critical part in supporting sustained operations is underway replenishments (UNREP). *IKE* completed 36 UNREPs.

From bringing everything from jet parts to food to fuel to the ship, an UNREP is essential. *IKE* has taken on more than 8,000 pallets of supplies and approximately 21,000,000 gallons of JP-5.

"The underway replenishment operations are critical to keeping Eisenhower Strike Group on station and combat ready," said Chief Warrant Officer Lyedell Gibson, *IKE* Ship's Bos'n. "The replenishment operations provide fuel for the aircraft, food for the crew, repair parts to keep equipment functioning properly. At the same time it allows the strike group to stay on station and constantly provide combat support to our troops on the ground in a moment's notice."

Boosting morale and keeping *IKE* Sailors in touch with their loved ones, the ship's post office and mail are very important to *IKE* and her mission. During deployment, *IKE*'s Postal Clerks brought on more than 300,000 pounds of mail.

"I really have to commend the postal clerks that work for me," said Postal Clerk 1st Class (SW/AW) Surette Mazique, S-12 leading petty officer. "They supported the ship by handling and processing all the mail, customer service and assisting with replenishments at sea. We've kept well maintained, and we'll keep strong until the end."

Another division tasked with keeping the lines of communication open is Combat Systems, CS-3 Division.

Since deployment began, there were approximately 6,800,000 emails sent off the ship and approximately 7,300,000 emails sent to the ship.

"I think the techs in CS-3 Division are amazing. The job that they do, day in and day out, making sure folks can get information, from both a professional and just as importantly from a Quality of Life standpoint is a phenomenon," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Ken Kipler, CS-3 Division Officer. "They have directly impacted the mission of the Strike group by ensuring that when the top leaders have had to make decisions, they had all the required information at their fingertips and the ability to communicate that decision over multiple communications paths."

Sailors have many opportunities to stay in touch with their loved ones at home, including United Through Reading, which was established to provide a way for Sailors to comfort their children during an extended absence, such as cruise.

*IKE* broke the record set by the Enterprise-class aircraft carrier *USS Enterprise (CVN 65)* for the most participation in UTR, producing a record number of 2,066 messages during a single cruise.

Food Service Division also plays a big part in keeping the crew happy. It's difficult to imagine how much food *IKE* Sailors have gone through in eight months. Here are some of the numbers: 45,780 gallons of milk, 633,120 eggs, 155,189 pounds of ground beef, and 238,970 pounds of chicken. Food Service Division served a total of 3,190,211 meals to the crew.

"We have a lot of pride in preparing the quality food for the crew," said Culinary Specialist 1st Class (SW/AW) Jerry Johnson. "We do our best to make sure everybody is happy with the food we serve. It's been a very challenging experience serving everyone while underway, but also a very rewarding one."

Looking back on the cruise, *IKE* Sailors reflect on some of the best experiences they've had.

"This was my first deployment," said Storekeeper Seaman Shannon Gray. "It was really challenging, especially dealing with such a large crew. I really enjoyed all the ports we visited and experiencing new cultures. I also realize how much I have grown from the experience."

*IKE* Sailors also had the opportunity to take part in a historical Navy tradition when the ship conducted a "crossing the line" ceremony to commemorate the ship's crossing of the equator.

"What surprised me the most was when we crossed the equator," said Yeoman Seaman Eric Tyson. "My dad is a Shellback, and I am really glad that I got to follow in his footsteps and become one myself."

The world famous Harlem Globetrotters visited *IKE*, bringing great basketball and entertainment to Sailors.

"This was a great cruise for so many reasons," said Damage Controlman 3rd Class (SW) Jon Gerringer. "I loved it when we had the Harlem Globetrotters on board. I had never seen them before and they were great."

"I believe this team excelled at every mission they were assigned. Our Sailors, 70 percent of whom had never deployed before, are the most inspiring men and women I've ever served with," said Capt. Dan Cloyd, Commanding Officer of *USS Dwight D. Eisenhower*. "Looking back on the past eight months we know we've made a difference, that we saved lives every day and that we contributed significantly to the security and stability of uniquely important and remarkable parts of the world. We also know that our families helped make this excellence possible – we can't thank them enough for their sacrifices and support. It'll be great to be together with them again." ★

## Homecoming Tip

**Many couples have gotten into a real bind because they feel the need to celebrate their reunion with a spending spree or vacation.**

**Remember--if you can't afford it, don't do it.**

## Man on the Street:

**If you could be anyone for a day who would you be?**



**CS3 Brandon Wright**  
"Brandon Boyd, the lead singer of Incubus."



**CSSN Justin Portas**  
"Donald Trump."



**SN Matthew Wands**  
"Chip Foose, a custom car designer."



**SN Milo Simon**  
"Dane Cook."



**ATAN Shaun Sherman**  
"Einstein."



**PSSN Mark Lopez**  
"Homer Simpson."



**IC3 Alicia Caouette**  
"Angelina Jolie."

*Photos by MCSN Holly Whitfill*

# Sports Roundup

## National Basketball Association

### Cavaliers Fall Short

Lebron James passed to Donyell Marshall, who missed a wide-open 3-pointer with 5.9 seconds left that allowed the Detroit Pistons to escape with a 79-76 victory over the Cleveland Cavaliers on Monday night in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference finals.

James was scoreless in the first quarter and finished with a playoff-low 10 points, 10 rebounds and fell just short of a triple-double with nine assists.

Game 2 is Thursday night at The Palace before the series shifts to Cleveland. ★

## National Football League

### Vick Did Nothing Wrong

Washington Redskins players Clinton Portis and Chris Samuels defended Michael Vick on Monday by ridiculing the notion that dog fighting is considered a crime.

Dog fighting is a felony in Virginia, but Portis said that if Vick is charged and convicted, "Then I think he got cheated. ... You're putting him behind bars for no reason -- over a dog fight."

"In the recent interview I gave concerning dog fighting, I want to make it clear I do not take part in dog fighting or condone dog fighting in any manner," Portis said. ★

## College Basketball

### Kentucky Cancels Game

Kentucky athletic director Mitch Barnhart called UMass AD John McCutcheon Friday to tell him the Wildcats would be exercising their \$50,000 buyout option to cancel the trip.

With the UMass buyout, the Wildcats are now expected to play only two true non-conference road games this season, against Indiana and Houston. They also may face such teams as Connecticut, Memphis or Oklahoma in the Coaches vs. Cancer tournament, and the home schedule includes dates with Louisville and North Carolina. ★



### ESWS Question of the Day

How many days worth of food and water is in each lifeboat?

Answer: 6-7 Days

## NHL Round 3 PLAYOFFS MATCHUPS

### EASTERN CONFERENCE

TEAM	WINS
1. Buffalo Sabres	1
5. Ottawa Senators	4

### WESTERN CONFERENCE

TEAM	WINS
1. Detroit Red Wings	2
2. Anaheim Ducks	3

## NBA PLAYOFFS CONFERENCE FINALS MATCHUPS

### EASTERN CONFERENCE

TEAM	WINS
1. Detroit Pistons	0
2. Cleveland Cavaliers	0

### WESTERN CONFERENCE

TEAM	WINS
3. San Antonio Spurs	1
5. Utah Jazz	0

## 3M Question of the Day

### True or False:

**The maintenance person must inform the division officer when planned maintenance requirements are completed and the division officer will then sign the accountability log.**

Answer: True

## Anzio

towards Virginia.

The four crew members had picked the Amerauto up in the Bahamas and were sailing it back to the Ukraine via St. George, Bermuda, and the Azores.

They had left St. George on May 15 and were just on sail power. Amerauto is a U.S.-flagged sailboat, registered in Newark, Delaware, and owned by a U.S.-based company.

"Throughout the course of our deployment, we have assisted four vessels in distress on the high seas. While it is an unfortunate circumstance for those individuals, I hope that this interaction has had a positive and lasting impact on the lives of those we have helped," said Capt. Perry Bingham, Anzio's Commanding Officer.

"In all four cases it may be the first and only interac-

tion these mariners have with Americans, and I think we left them with a very positive impression that they will take back to their homes."

Anzio is transiting home to Norfolk after an extended eight-month deployment to the U.S. 5th Fleet area of responsibility in support of Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom and maritime security operations.

Anzio is part of the Eisenhower Carrier Strike Group, which also includes the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier *USS Dwight D. Eisenhower* (CVN 69), embarked Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 7, embarked Destroyer Squadron 28; guided-missile destroyer *USS Ramage* (DDG 61); and guided-missile destroyer *USS Mason* (DDG 87). The strike group deployed Oct. 3 from Norfolk. ★

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